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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Pine Ridge Reservation Nonprofit Receives National Award for Innovations and Commitment in Native Community Development Field**

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**Kyle, South Dakota** – *October 24, 2012* – On October 17, 2012 Lakota Funds, a Native community development financial institution (CDFI) located in Kyle, South Dakota, was presented with the Circle of Honor Award during the national Native CDFI Awards Ceremony in San Antonio, Texas. The Circle of Honor Award recognizes a Native CDFI that is successfully increasing access to capital and financial resources in Native communities by developing innovative loan products, promoting community development, and overcoming challenges.

“Lakota Funds is honored to be selected for this prestigious award. We see the differences we are making on the Pine Ridge Reservation every day, but it is nice to be recognized amongst your peers as a leader in the industry,” states Tawney Brunsch, Executive Director of Lakota Funds.

Lakota Funds was selected from a highly competitive group of Native CDFI nominees and was awarded for demonstrating strong financial performance, diversity in creating lending products and development services to serve its target market and the commitment to advancing asset building efforts for Native communities on a local, state, and national level.

The awards ceremony, hosted by First Nations Oweesta Corporation and Opportunity Finance Network, capped off the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Convening in conjunction with the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual OFN Conference where hundreds of community and economic development practitioners from across the country joined to share and learn about new ideas, strategies for change, and innovations from the field.

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#### **About Lakota Funds**

Lakota Funds is a Native community development financial institution (CDFI) leading an economic resurgence of the Oglala Lakota Oyate on the Pine Ridge Reservation through culturally appropriate strategies reigniting the traditional Lakota spirit of productivity, commerce, and trade. For over 25 years, Lakota Funds has played a vital role in improving the quality of life for the Oglala Lakota Oyate by placing capital with new and growing businesses, providing customized business development services, and educating adults and youth on financial management concepts.